

REMARKS

In the amendments above, Claims 1, 7, 11, 17 and 21 have been amended and new Claims 27 to 30 have been added, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Support for new Claims 27 to 30 can be found in Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, and 17.

Claims 21, 22, and 27 to 30 are believed to correspond to subject matter the Examiner indicated to be allowable in the April 11, 2005 Office Action.

In that Office Action, the remaining claims were rejected based in large part on the Feehan published patent application ("Feehan"). Applicants previously argued that Feehan does not disclose or suggest any aspect of Applicants' invention because Feehan does not disclose separating layers of an information or data storage device. The Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action dated July 21, 2005 that Feehan teaches removing a reflective layer in paragraph [0022] which is equivalent to separating layers. Applicants submit that while Feehan does, at best, ambiguously and gratuitously mention removing a reflective layer (para. [0022], lines 4-6), it is clear in context (see, for example, para. [0025], line 1, to para. [0026], line 4, of Feehan) that there is only partial removal of a layer, not separation of two layers as taught and claimed by Applicants. More particularly, punching out a portion of a disk as disclosed by Feehan removes a portion of a layer, such as a reflective layer, from the disk, but it is not the same as separating two layers from each other.

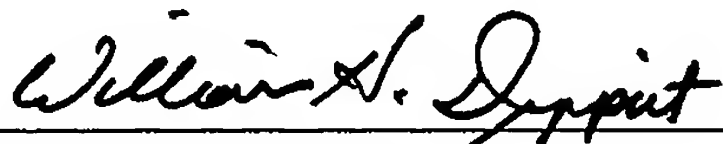
To emphasize the distinctions from Feehan, Claims 1, 7, 11, and 17 have been amended above to clearly indicate that the first and second layers are completely separated.

It is believed that all the claims herein are patentable over the art cited by the Examiner and that these claims should be allowed. Should the claims herein be allowable but for matters that could be the subject of either a supplemental submission by Applicants or an Examiner's Amendment, Applicants would appreciate the Examiner contacting Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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